

Public Defender Department

Gary Kula

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Program Goal

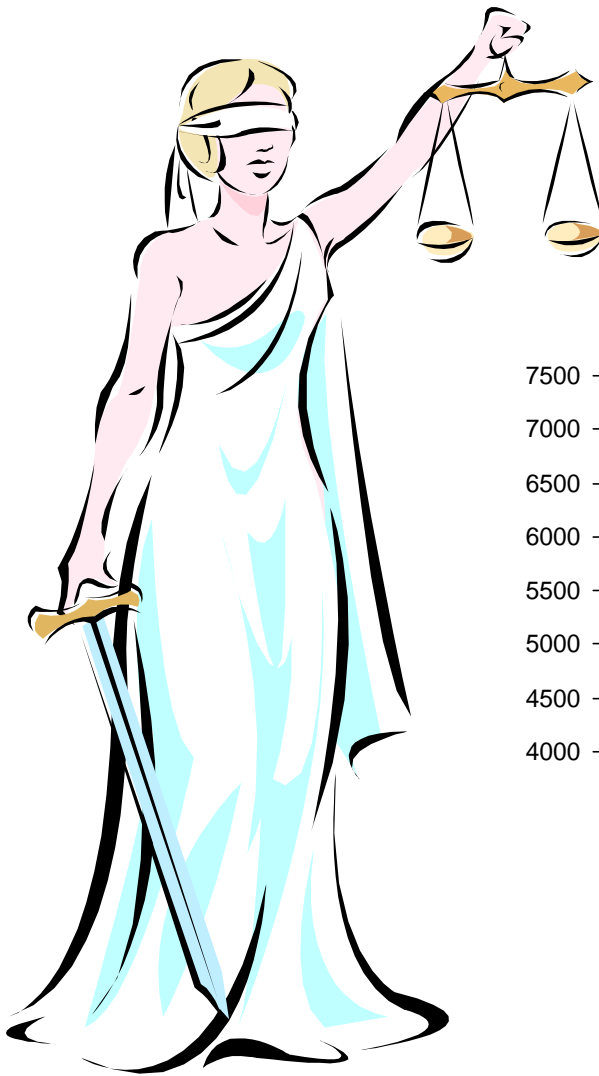
The Phoenix Public Defender Department contracts with private lawyers to provide legal services to indigent individuals charged with criminal misdemeanor offenses committed in the City of Phoenix.

Key Services

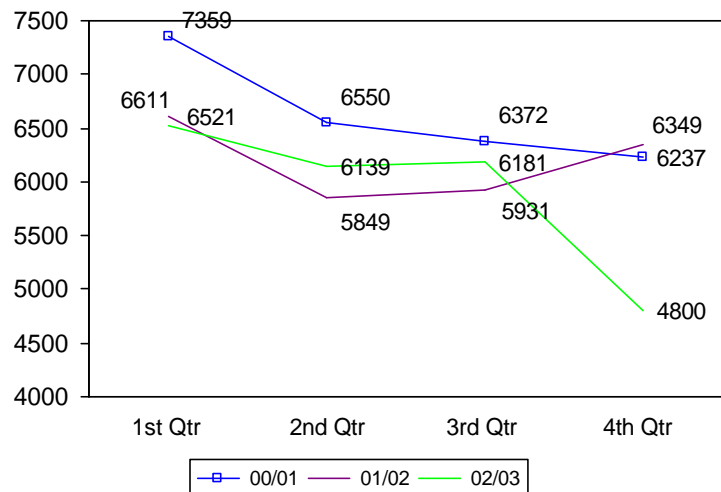
The Department has three Eligibility Office employees responsible for the financial screening of individuals requesting the appointment of an attorney. The administrative staff for the Department includes a Director, an Assistant Director and an Administrative Assistant.

A seven-member Review Committee, created by ordinance and consisting of persons appointed by the City Council, provides oversight to the policies and practices of the Department.

Phone (602)534-2380

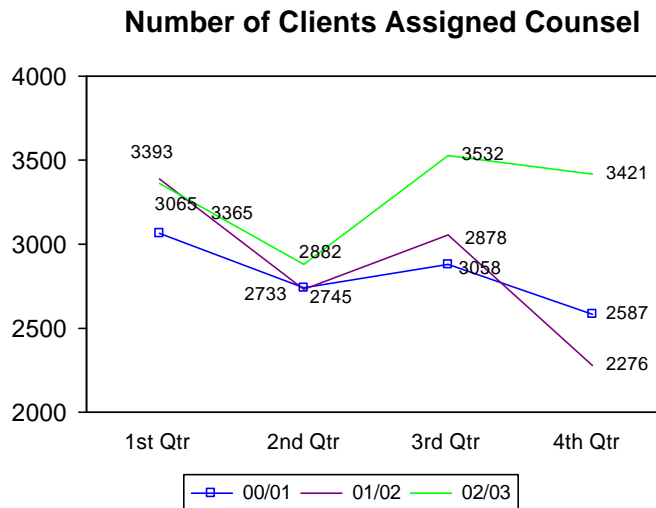


Number of Clients Assisted at Jail Court*



Note: All data is reported one quarter in arrears.

*estimates based on Attorneys assisting 100% of the clients appearing in K-Court and 60% of clients appearing in Jail Court

Public Defender $\frac{3}{4}$ continued

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Comments/Highlights

This past year, the Department contracted with private lawyers to defend over 13,000 individuals in Phoenix Municipal Court and assist over 26,000 individuals held in custody at the Madison Street Jail. The eighty attorneys currently under contract have a combined total of over 1000 years legal experience.

The attorneys under contract defend persons charged with a variety of misdemeanor offenses including: driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs, prostitution, assault, theft, shoplifting, leaving the scene of an accident, and zoning violations.

Individuals may also receive legal assistance at their first court date from an Arraignment Court Attorney. This attorney is there to answer questions and provide advice to help individuals understand the legal proceedings and the processing of cases through the criminal justice system.

Individuals who meet specific income guidelines and demonstrate a financial inability to hire private counsel are assigned attorneys. A majority of these individuals are required to make a contribution towards the cost of their court appointed attorney.